

# ISTANBUL AND CAPPADOCIA

## Istanbul:

Istanbul is a major city in Turkey that straddles Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus Strait. Its Old City reflects cultural influences of the many empires that once ruled here. In the Sultanahmet district, the open-air, Roman-era Hippodrome was for centuries the site of chariot races, and Egyptian obelisks also remain. The iconic Byzantine Hagia Sophia features a soaring 6th-century dome and rare Christian mosaics.

## Cappadocia:

Cappadocia, a semi-arid region in central Turkey, is known for its distinctive “fairy chimneys,” tall, cone-shaped rock formations clustered in Monks Valley, Göreme and elsewhere. Other notable sites include Bronze Age homes carved into valley walls by troglodytes (cave dwellers) and later used as refuges by early Christians. The 100m-deep Ihlara Canyon houses numerous rock-face churches.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: DAY 01: ISTANBUL

Arrival at Istanbul International Airport Meet and assist at Airport

Transfer to Hotel Check in hotel

Time for rest and personal activities Overnight at hotel

### Day 2: DAY 02: ISTANBUL

Breakfast at hotel

Full Day Old City Tour: Topkapi Palace: As the administrative centre, for nearly 400 years, for the Ottoman Empire, which was one of the greatest empires of the world, Topkapi Palace is certainly the most important historical site to be visited in Istanbul. It is also one of the most frequently visited museums in Europe with more than 2.5 million visitors per year. In 1461, less than ten years after the Conquest, Fatih Mehmet ordered the construction of Topkapi Sarayi a palace that would be known as Dar-us Saadet, the “House of Felicity”. Topkapi Sarayi remained the seat of the Ottoman Sultans until 1868 when Abdülmecit I moved to the European-style Dolmabahçe Palace farther up the Bosphorus Hagia Sophia Mosque: Hagia Sophia was built at the command of Emperor

Justinian in the years 532 to 537. The courtyard of Haghia Sophia contains a number of minor but fascinating Ottoman structures.

Hippodrome: The ancient Hippodrome, the scene of chariot races and the centre of Byzantine civic life, stands in the open space in front of the Blue Mosque.

Blue Mosque: A magnificent series of domes and semi-domes, six slender minarets sprouting from the corners of the mosque, a spacious courtyard, and finally it is grand yet elegant proportions make the Blue Mosque one of the architectural marvels of the world.

Lunch at Local Restaurant.

Grand Bazaar: The Grand Bazaar was built at the command of Fatih Mehmet shortly after the Conquest. It contains 4399 shops, 2195 workshops, 497 stalls, and 18 fountains

After tour back to hotel Overnight at Hotel

### **Day 3: DAY 03: ISTANBUL-CAPPADOCIA**

Breakfast at hotel Check out from hotel

Transfer to Istanbul Airport Arrival to Kayseri Airport Meet & Greet at the airport Transfer to hotel

Check into hotel and rest time Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel

### **Day 4: DAY 04: CAPPADOCIA**

OPTIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON ( PLEASE ASK FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY )

Breakfast at the hotel

Full Day North Cappadocia Tour: Devrent-Pasabag ( Monk's Valley ) : Pasabag in Cappadocia is located on the road to Zelve, coming from Goreme or Avanos. Highly remarkable earth pillars can be seen here, in the middle of a vineyard, hence the name of the place which means: the Pacha's vineyard. Pacha means "General", the military rank, in Turkish and it is a very common nick name.

This site is also called Monks Valley. The name was derived from some cones carved in tuff stones which stand apart. Currently, there is a vineyard and a number of tuff cones standing right next to the road.

Avanos: The red clay from the riverbanks is excellent for traditional household pottery as well as industrial uses such as building blocks and roof tiles. You can see pottery being made, and even take a pottery-making class and make some yourself.

Esentepe: The magnificent landscape around Goreme has been formed from its solidified lava streams, its ash and tuff stone, all dating from the Neocene period. A result of thousands of years of continual erosion makes this area look like a lunar landscape. The fairy chimneys also have a great colour variety. There are light and dark colours from white to yellow, pink, grey and black.

**Uchisar Castle:** The village is dominated by a huge plug of rock, a so-called kale (castle) which is mirrored in Ortahisar, a similar-sized but much less visited village just off the road from Nevsehir to Urgup.

**Goreme Open Air Museum:** This Unesco World Heritage site is an essential stop on any Cappadocian itinerary. First thought to be a Byzantine monastic settlement that housed some 20 monks, then a pilgrimage site from the 17th century, this splendid cluster of monastic Byzantine artistry with its rock-cut churches, chapels and monasteries is 1km uphill from Göreme's centre.

Lunch at Local Restaurant After tour back to hotel

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel

## **Day 5: DAY 05: CAPPADOCIA**

Breakfast at the hotel Check out from hotel

Transfer to Kayseri Airport for back to home

## **INCLUSIONS**

- Domestic Tickets
- International Flights
- Visa
- 2 Nights Accommodations in Istanbul
- 2 Nights Accommodations in Cappadocia
- All Transfers are private basis
- All Tours are SIC ( Sharing ) basis
- The Meals are mentioned on the itinerary
- The Entrance Fees are mentioned on the itinerary
- Professional Licenced Tourist Guide ( During the tour )
- Taxes

## **EXCLUSIONS**

- Hot Air Balloon
- Insurance
- Personal Expenses

## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

- Hot Air Balloon
- Insurance
- Personal Expenses